

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, MASS, US, UV

SUBJECT: MEETING BETWEEN VOLTAN MILITARY DELEGATION AND
USG OFFICIALS

REFS: A) OUAGADOUGOU 4039, B) OUAGADOUGOU 3991

SUMMARY: VOLTAN MILITARY DELEGATION, LED BY COMMANDANT
DAKOURE AND AMBASSADOR YAGUIBOU, MET WITH DEPARTMENT OF
STATE AND DEFENSE OFFICIALS DECEMBER 21-22. IN ALL THREE
MEETINGS VOLTANS EMPHASIZED PRESIDENT LAMIZANA'S FEELING
THAT VOLTAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COULD PROGRESS ONLY IF
COUNTRY'S SECURITY WAS ASSURED. VOLTANS PRESENTED COPIES
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OF LAMIZANA LETTER TO AMB. GRAHAM, WITH ANNEXES DESCRIBING
MATERIEL REQUIREMENTS. IN GENERAL, USG OFFICIALS RESPONDED
THAT LISTS REQUIRE STUDY, AND THAT US WOULD RESPOND AS BEST
AS POSSIBLE WITHIN LIMITATIONS OF FMS PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

1. VOLTAN MILITARY DELEGATION (CONSISTING OF COMMANDANT

DAKOURE, CAPTAIN DIASSO, CAPTAIN SANON, LIEUTENANT LANKOUANDE) AND AMBASSADOR YAGUIBOU CALLED ON DEPARTMENT DECEMBER 21. FIRST CONTACT WAS WITH AF ASST SECY SCHAUFLE (ONLY YAGUIBOU AND DAKOURE ATTENDED). VOLTANS PRESENTED COPIES OF LAMIZANA-GRAHAM LETTER, WITH ANNEXES, DESCRIBING VOLTAN NEEDS FOR MATERIEL. COVERING LETTER FROM YAGUIBOU

TO SCHAUFLE GAVE FOLLOWING DETAILS: GOUV HOPED ITEMS INCLUDED IN ANNEX I (CLOTHING) AND ANNEX II (VEHICLES) WOULD BE GIVEN TO UPPER VOLTA ON GRANT BASIS. OTHER ITEMS (AIR TRANSPORT, PARACHUTES, ANTIAIRCRAFT MISSILES, ANTITANK WEAPONS) COULD BE EITHER GRANT OR CREDIT BASIS. VOLTANS EMPHASIZED THAT MATERIEL NEEDED TO ENSURE SECURITY OF COUNTRY, WITHOUT WHICH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IMPOSSIBLE.

2. ASST SECY SCHAUFLE RESPONDED BY STATING THAT ANNEXES, WHICH HAD NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED FROM FIELD, WOULD BE STUDIED CAREFULLY. USG WOULD RESPOND AS POSITIVELY AS POSSIBLE TO VOLTAN REQUESTS WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS OF AVAILABILITIES, DELIVERY DELAYS, AND CONGRESSIONAL GUIDELINES FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE. IN PARTICULAR, GRANT AND CREDIT ASSISTANCE WOULD BE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE IN THE SHORT-RUN, AS FMS FINANCING IS PLANNED TWO YEARS IN ADVANCE UNDER USG BUDGET PLANNING SYSTEM. THEREFORE, IN NEAR FUTURE, USG MAY NOT BE ABLE TO RESPOND FULLY TO VOLTAN REQUEST, BUT WE COULD PLAN AHEAD FOR THE FUTURE. SCHAUFLE NOTED THAT UPPER VOLTA HAD A PARTICULAR FRIEND IN SENEGAL- ESE PRESIDENT SENGHOR, WHO SUGGESTED TO SECRETARY KISSINGER DURING THE LATTER'S TRIP TO DAKAR THAT UPPER VOLTA SHOULD BE ONE OF THE SMALL AFRICAN COUNTRIES ON WHICH THE CONFIDENTIAL

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US SHOULD BASE ITS AFRICAN POLICY.

3. NEXT MEETING (WITH ENTIRE VOLTAN DELEGATION) WAS CHAIRED BY PM/SAS OFFICE DIRECTOR WINSHIP, WHO GAVE BACKGROUND ON HOW FMS FINANCING IS ALLOTTED UNDER PRESENT SYSTEM (I.E. SECRETARY OF STATE REVIEWS REQUESTS MADE BY VARIOUS COUNTRIES, AND FORMULATES RECOMMENDATION FOR PRESIDENT ON SIZE OF PROGRAM AND ALLOCATION OF FINANCING). WINSHIP NOTED THAT USG HAD ONLY RECENTLY RESTORED UPPER VOLTA'S ELIGIBILITY FOR ANY SORT OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE BY LIFTING ARMS EMBARGO STEMMING FROM BORDER CONFLICT WITH MALI. THEREFORE VOLTAN REQUEST FOR FMS FINANCING IS BOTH NEW AND SOMEWHAT UNEXPECTED, AND WOULD REQUIRE FURTHER STUDY. IN ADDITION, FINANCING WOULD BE NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN FOR GOUV BEFORE START OF FY 1979. VOLTAN DELEGATION THEN INQUIRED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF REPROGRAMMING OF FMS FINANCING DURING CURRENT FISCAL YEAR, AS THEY HAD HEARD THAT FMS FINANCING ORIGINALLY ALLOTTED

TO ETHIOPIA WOULD NOT BE USED. WINSHIP REFRAINED FROM COMMENT ON ETHIOPIA PROGRAM, BUT REITERATED THAT VOLTANS SHOULD NOT HOPE FOR FMS FINANCING IN NEAR FUTURE. IF VOLTAN NEEDS REQUIRE URGENT SATISFACTION, THEY SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON FMS CASH PURCHASES TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE GIVEN LIMITATIONS OF THEIR OWN FINANCIAL POSITION. WINSHIP ALSO NOTED THAT IN GENERAL, FMS CREDITS ARE ON MUCH LESS LENIENT TERMS THAN LOANS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CURRENT TERMS TYPICALLY ARE LOANS FOR 5-8 YEARS, MAXIMUM OF ONE YEAR'S GRACE, AND INTEREST RATE SET AT COST OF MONEY TO USG-CURRENTLY ABOUT 6-1/2 PERCENT FOR 7-YEAR LOANS AS OF DECEMBER 1976).

4. DECEMBER 22, VOLTAN DELEGATION (MINUS LANKOUNDE) MET WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS (NEAR EAST, SOUTH ASIA, AND AFRICA DIVISION) LESLIE JANKA. DOD OFFICIAL EXPLAINED THAT DEPARTMENT OF STATE SETS POLICY FOR USG MILITARY CONFIDENTIAL

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ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND DOD SERVES AS EXECUTOR OF THAT POLICY. AFTER VOLTANS EXPLAINED NEED FOR STRENGTHENING OF THEIR ARMY, BOTH FOR DETERRENT AGAINST SURPRISE ATTACK BY POTENTIALLY HOSTILE NEIGHBORS AND FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REASONS, DISCUSSION ADDRESSED FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) SECURITY THREAT FACED BY UPPER VOLTA: WHEN QUERIED ON ORIGIN OF THREAT, VOLTANS RESPONDED THAT MALI WAS ONLY NEIGHBOR WHICH HAD RECENTLY MANIFESTED HOSTILITY TOWARDS GOUV, AND NOW THAT DISPUTE WAS COMPLETELY SETTLED. HOWEVER, IN FUTURE, ANY OF UPPER VOLTA'S SIX NEIGHBORS COULD SUDDENLY TURN UNFRIENDLY, SO GOUV MUST HAVE WELL-PREPARED ARMED FORCES.

B) ROLE OF VOLTAN ARMED FORCES: VOLTANS STATED THAT ARMY NEEDED EQUIPMENT TO (1) DETER POSSIBLE ATTACK; (2) PARTICIPATE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS (E.G. TRANSPORT OF FOOD AND SUPPLIES DURING DROUGHT), AND (3) INSPIRE CONFIDENCE IN ARMY ON PART OF VOLTAN POPULACE.

C) TYPE OF WEAPONS SOUGHT: REGARDING SPECIFIC WEAPONS (ANNEXES 4 AND 5 TO LAMIZANA-GRAHAM LETTER), VOLTANS SAID ANTIAIRCRAFT DEFENSE NEED NOT BE HAND-HELD MISSILES (DOD EXPLAINED STRICT USG POLICY AGAINST PROLIFERATION THIS TYPE WEAPON). GOUV SEEKS GROUND-AIR MISSILE WITH MOBILE CAPABILITY TO MEET ANY POTENTIAL AIR THREAT. ANTITANK WEAPONS SOUGHT (OF STRIMM TYPE MANUFACTURED BY FRENCH) ARE 88-MM BAZOOKA-TYPE WEAPON, FOR USE AGAINST MEDIUM-TYPE TANKS.

D) AIR TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT: VOLTANS EXPLAINED THAT L-100-20 (VICE C-130 LISTED ON ANNEX 3) NEEDED BY GOUV TO ASSURE TRANSPORT OF VITAL COMMODITIES WITHIN UPPER VOLTA AND BEYOND BORDERS. L-100 (CIVILIAN VERSION OF C-130) PREFERRED BECAUSE OF ITS VERSATILITY. DOD NOTED THAT L-100S NOT NORMALLY AVAILABLE UNDER FMS PROGRAM SINCE L-100 IS CIVIL-CONFIDENTIAL

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IAN AIRCRAFT, USUALLY PURCHASED DIRECTLY FROM LOCKHEED, AND NOT UNDER SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

E) QUANTITIES OF CLOTHING: WHEN TOLD THAT NUMBER OF UNIFORMS IN ANNEX 1 SEEMED HIGH, VOLTANS EXPLAINED THAT THEY DID NOT INTEND TO ENLARGE PRESENT SIZE OF VOLTAN ARMED FORCES. HOWEVER, THEY HAD CONSIDERED IT PRUDENT TO REQUEST SEVERAL OUTFITS PER SOLDIER, IN ORDER HAVE SOME RESERVES (IN PRIVATE, VOLTANS HINTED THAT THEY INTENDED THE QUANTITY LISTED TO SERVE APPROXIMATELY 4000 SOLDIERS, NOT 12,000 AS LISTED REFTEL A).

5. DOD EMPHASIZED THAT IN NEAR FUTURE GRANT ASSISTANCE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE; HOWEVER, THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT SOME FMS FINANCING (FY 1977 "FALLOUT FUNDS") COULD BE AVAILABLE AT END OF NEXT SUMMER. WHEN ASKED WHAT VOLTAN PRIORITIES WERE, DAKOURE RESPONDED THAT MOST IMPORTANT ITEMS WERE THOSE ON ANNEXES 1, 2 AND 3 (CLOTHING, VEHICLES, AND AIR TRANSPORT). DOD PROMISED TO EXAMINE LIST OF ITEMS MORE CLOSELY WITH VIEW TO DETERMINING PRICE AND AVAILABILITY OF MATERIEL CONTAINED THEREON.

6. JUST BEFORE CLOSE OF MEETING, DAKOURE RAISED SUBJECT OF AVIATION TRAINING (ORIGINALLY BROACHED BY CAPTAIN DIASSO DURING AUGUST VISIT). DOD RESPONDED THAT TRAINING CURRENTLY IS AVAILABLE ON PAY-AS-YOU-GO BASIS, AND MIGHT NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR ALL THE ITEMS ON VOLTAN LIST. HOWEVER, GENERAL TRAINING IN FIELD OF AVIATION COULD PROBABLY BE MADE AVAILABLE TO GOUV ON FMS CASH OR COMMERCIAL CONTRACT BASIS.

7. COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY, VOLTAN OFFICIALS WERE HOPING FOR SOFTEST TERMS POSSIBLE ON THEIR REQUEST. THEY OBVIOUSLY WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT GRANTS NO LONGER POSSIBLE FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, AND THAT CREDITS MUST BE PROGRAMMED WELL IN ADVANCE. HOWEVER, THEY SEEMED HEARTENED BY NEWS
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THAT MOST ITEMS AND TRAINING THEY SEEK ARE READILY AVAILABLE THROUGH FMS CASH OR COMMERCIAL CHANNELS, SUBJECT TO USG APPROVAL REQUIRED BY LIMITATIONS OF USG POLICY AND LAW. THEY PROMISED TO SEND US LETTER (EITHER IN WASHINGTON OR OUAGADOUGOU) SETTING FORTH THEIR WEAPONRY NEEDS MORE PRECISELY. WHEN LETTER RECEIVED, STATE/DOD WILL DETERMINE WHAT IS REALISTICALLY POSSIBLE IN RESPONSE VOLTAN SHOPPING LIST.

8. IN SHORT, IN THEIR INITIAL CONTACT, THE VOLTANS ASKED FOR A GREAT DEAL AND FELL FAR SHORT OF THEIR GOALS. HOWEVER, THEY WERE GIVEN ASSURANCES OF STRONG US FRIENDSHIP AND SOME REASON TO EXPECT COOPERATION WITHIN LIMITS OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, AND WE EXPECT FOLLOW-UP ON A MORE REALISTIC BASIS. END COMMENT.

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